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of dry land if they are landless poor persons. In the case of poor persons owning small extents of land, the area assigned should be such that together with the land owned by them their holding does not exceed 5 acres of wet or 10 acres of dry land. In other cases the lands will be withdrawn from them on the expiry of the lease period and disposed of in accordance with the instructions issued on the policy in regard to assignment of land.

"(*d*) Yes.

"(*e*) As the lands were granted temporarily under the Grow More Food Scheme for a specified period and as provision has already been made in the assignment policy for such of these lessees as come under the term 'landless poor persons', the Government do not propose to revise their policy.

"(*f*) Only the actual Grow More Food lessees will receive these benefits. If the actual cultivators are not the lessees, they will not receive any special consideration.

"(*g*) Lands are assigned to political sufferers subject to the conditions, among others, that they should be cultivated by the assignees themselves or the members of their family or with hired labour or both and that the lands assigned should be brought under cultivation within a period of three years from the date of assignment on pain of resumption."

"(*h*) Yes. Political sufferers are precluded from alienating the lands assigned to them for a period of ten years. Nor can they sub-let the lands assigned to them.

Ban on the assignment of agricultural land.

* 67 *Q*.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the ban on the assignment, permanent or temporary, of agricultural land since 1943, pending settlement of policy, affects assignment of land for purposes other than agriculture or whether exceptions have been made;

(*b*) if the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative or negative, what the present policy is in that regard;

(*c*) whether, in assigning lands for agricultural purposes, priority is given to political sufferers even as against ex-service personnel and landless poor including Harijans;

(*d*) who the 'political sufferers' are according to Government;

(*e*) what steps are taken by the Government to ensure that the assigned lands are cultivated immediately in view of the self-sufficiency target to be attained by 1951; and

(*f*) whether, in view of the importance of the Government policy, the Government propose to allot time to discuss the question?

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THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" (a) The ban imposed in 1943 did not apply to temporary grant of land. The ban was in regard to permanent assignment and was intended to apply to agricultural lands.

" (b) & (c) The attention of the member is invited to the Press note,[a] dated 9th June 1949, in which the policy of the Government in regard to assignment of lands has been published.

" (d) The term ' political sufferer ' has been defined for purposes of grant of land as a person who suffered imprisonment as a result of taking part in political movements inaugurated by the Indian National Congress or under its sanction. The following exceptional classes of political sufferers are also eligible for grant of land under the scheme :—

(1) Persons whose names were included in the list of satyagrahis approved by Gandhiji for taking part in the Individual Civil Disobedience Movement of 1940–41, who really disobeyed but were not convicted.

(2) Persons who conducted the movement from underground in 1942 under the direction and authority or the competent Congress Committees.

(3) Persons who were heavily lathi-charged or received gunshot wounds though not convicted.

(4) Persons who really took part in political movements and were placed on trial without finally being sentenced to imprisonment provided that during the period of trial they were remanded to custody in jails for not less than three months.

(5) Persons who were convicted and sentenced to fine in connexion with political movements.

" (e) Assignment is made subject to the conditions, among others, that the land is brought under cultivation within a period of three years from the date of grant on pain of resumption and that it is cultivated by the assignee himself or the members of his family or with hired labour or both.

" (f) As the policy was introduced more than two years ago and is very well known to everybody and as there have been frequent discussions on it in the Assembly, the Government do not propose to allot any time to discuss this question now."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know if one of the conditions for the grant of land to political sufferers is that the political sufferers should continue to belong to the Congress party? " 11-15 a.m.

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Yes, Sir."

JANAB ADBUL LATIF FAROOKHI :—" Is it not a fact, Sir, that this Government on the floor of both the Houses of the

[a] Printed as Appendix III on pages 797–798 infra.

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Legislature said, some time back, that even though people do not at present belong to the Congress would nevertheless get assignment of land if they are political sufferers?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Subsequent to that or previous to that—I do not remember when—orders were passed saying that they must continue to belong to the Congress organization."

JANAB ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI :—" May I know the reason for this change of policy?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" There is no change in the policy; the policy remains the same."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether Government do not consider that this is a sort of indirect coercion to keep a man loyal by assigning him land?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" It is a question of loyalty and not one of coercion."

JANAB ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI :—" Sir, my question was that the Government on the floor of both Houses of this Legislature stated that lands would be assigned to political sufferers even though they did not belong to the Congress Party. There was then no continuance of loyalty to the party stated."

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Sir, I believe I made that statement soon after my assuming office. Probably I made a mistake then. For some time after that, or I believe, even before I made that statement, there was an order which said that a man should continue to be loyal to the Congress Party before he qualified himself as a political sufferer to get an assignment of land to him. Sir, if my previous statement had caused a misapprehension on the matter I take this opportunity to clearly state that it is necessary that a political sufferer should continue to be loyal to the Congress party to get an assignment of land to him."

SRI M. NARAYANA MENON :—" Sir, was there any political party in this country other than the Congress Party which worked for the attainment of independence of India?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Not to my knowledge." (Laughter.)

JANAB ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI :—" Is it a fact, Sir, that some lands already granted to some political sufferers were cancelled subsequently?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Yes, Sir. When the correct position was found out, it is quite possible that assignments that had been made were cancelled."

JANAB ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI :—" Was not Government aware of the correct facts before when they made the assignment?"

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THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Sir, officers might have committed a mistake in the absence of the entire list of political sufferers. Even as I said just a while back, I gave a wrong information regarding persons who are entitled to assignment of land, and subsequently corrected myself, and similarly there is nothing wrong in correcting a mistake committed."

JANAB ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI :—" Sir, the question I referred to does not relate to the statement made by the Hon. Minister in this House. I am referring to the statements made by his predecessors in office in the Assembly at the very beginning on the question of assignment of land to political sufferers, when a promise was made that lands would be assigned even to those who do not belong to the Congress Party now."

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Sir, I have no recollection of any such statement made. I believe even at the beginning I had said that after due examination a Government Order has been passed on the subject, and certain Government Orders amending or adding to that have been passed, and they lay down clearly the position that a person should belong to the Congress Party to qualify himself for assignment of land as political sufferer, because it is a question of continuance of loyalty."

JANAB ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI :—" Sir, are lands assigned to Socialists also, though they do not belong to the Congress Party? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Notice, because I do not wish to commit a mistake as I committed last time." (Laughter.)

SRI M. NARAYANA MENON :—" Will any political sufferer who wanted to sabotage India's independence be considered a political sufferer entitled to this privilege of assignment of land? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Not by this Government, Sir."

DR. A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know, Sir, whether assignment of lands has been made to the Members of this Legislature? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—"Yes, Sir, if they are political sufferers."

DR. A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know, Sir, whether in view of the fact that such lands fetch a permanent income to the assignees they will be considered as men of paid-services, and therefore ineligible to a seat in the Legislature? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" No, Sir."

DR. A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know whether the Hon. Minister has consulted legal opinion before he made that statement? "

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THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" I think, Sir, I was once a lawyer myself and that is enough for this." (Laughter.)

Alleged selling of intoxicating drinks in chemists shops.

* 68 Q.—SRI M. NARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have any information that some chemists shops have become regular bar houses and whether Tincture Zingiberis and other intoxicating drinks are sold there in large quantities; and

(*b*) what action has been taken or is proposed to be taken to put an end to such trade?

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" (*a*) & (*b*) The Government have received representations regarding the misuse by liquor addicts of certain medicinal preparations like Tincture Zingiberis. Orders have therefore been issued that those preparations which are being misused should be sold only by those possessing licences under the Madras Prohibition Act and in limited quantities not exceeding one quart in the case of patent preparations and 2 ounces at a time in the case of British Pharmacoepia preparations on the prescription of a qualified medical practitioner. Additional restriction will be imposed if necessary after watching the effect of these orders."

DR. P. S. SRINIVASAN :—" May I inquire whether Government are aware that these restrictions are imposed on registered medical practitioners also? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" Quite possible, as the quantity with them has also to be controlled."

DR. P. S. SRINIVASAN :—" May I know whether the Government are aware that it has caused hardship among many medical practitioners because the tincture is to be used every day in almost every prescription? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" Because of the terrible misuse of it, we had to control it; and quite possibly there is some inconvenience to medical practitioners, but it cannot be helped."

DR. P. S. SRINIVASAN :—" May I know whether it is because doctors misused it in giving prescriptions that they are also brought under the control? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" It may not be so. People who got the medicine from the doctors might have parted with it to others for misuse."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, which department of Government exercise control regarding this order? "